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REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 24, 2004. In the Office Action, all pending claims 1, 2, 4-14 and 16-25 were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 18 and 19 are amended and claims 24 and 25 are canceled. All other pending claims remain unchanged.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §112

On page two of the Office Action, claims 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 24 and 25 are canceled.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103

On page two of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14, 17-20 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baxter et al. (US 5,881,454) in view of Jabbardi et al. (US 5,541,787). It is respectfully submitted that the combination of cited references fail to teach or suggest the claim elements recited in independent claims 1 and 12.

On page five of the Office Action, the Examiner states that Baxter teaches data pins being parallel to the circuit board and that Jabbardi et al. was cited as a reference for the incorporation of guide pins (72) for attachment of a connector to the base plate. The Examiner further states that the base plate of Baxter is parallel to the data pins and that Jabbardi et al. suggests that the guide pins (72) are perpendicular to the base plate.

Although Jabbardi et al. shows a pair of locating pins that are perpendicular to a housing base, Jabbardi et al. also shows (in FIG. 4A) that the locating pins are parallel to a pair of connection pins. Claims 1 and 12 recite "the guide pin extending generally perpendicular to the plurality of pins". If one were to incorporate the locating pins of Jabbardi et al. with the electrical connector of Baxter et al. (as the Examiner is suggesting on page five), the locating pins of Jabbardi et al. would run parallel to the conductive pins of Baxter et al. and perpendicular to the housing of Baxter et al. In one aspect, locating pins that run parallel to conductive pins teaches the opposite to that which is recited in claims 1 and 12. In another aspect, a single pair of locating pins that run both parallel to the conductive pins of Baxter et al. and perpendicular to the base plate of Baxter et

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al. is impossible.

Furthermore, claims 1 and 12 recite a guide pin protruding or formed from one of the base plate and the electrical connector. Instead, Jabbardi et al. shows a pair of locating pins that are provided on a header or connector (see col. 5, lines 30-33 and FIG. 4A). Baxter et al. and Jabbardi et al. fail to teach or suggest locating pins that are protruding from a base housing.

Still further, amended claim 1 and claim 12 recite an opening that is formed in the other of the bottom surface of the base plate and the electrical connector for receiving the guide pin. Instead, Jabbardi et al shows a pair of holes that mate with the pair of locating pins. The pair of holes are formed in the top surface of the base housing. In addition, there are no holes formed in an electrical connector (see FIG. 4A). Baxter et al. and Jabbardi et al. fail to teach or suggest an opening formed in the other of the bottom surface for the base plate and the electrical connector for receiving the guide pin.

The combination of cited references also fails to teach or suggest the elements of amended claim 19. As previously discussed, neither Baxter et al. nor Jabbardi et al. teach or suggest that the means for aligning extend generally perpendicular to the data pins as recited in claim 19.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 12 and 19 are allowable over the cited references. It is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2, 4-8, 10-11, 13-14, 17-18 and 20-21 are allowable over the cited references by virtue of their dependency on allowable base claims 1, 12 and 19. However, these dependent claims are also not taught or suggested by the cited reference when read in their entirety. For example, none of the cited references teach or suggest that the elongated slot has a predetermined depth that is greater than the predetermined length of the guide pin as recited in dependent claim 8. In another example, none of the cited references teach or suggest that the guide pin is positioned in alignment with a predetermined one of the data pins as recited in amended dependent claims 10 and 18 and indicated in the Specification on page 11, line 28 and in FIG. 3. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

On page four of the Office Action, claims 9 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Baxter et al. in view of Jabbari et al. and further in view of Cox. It is respectfully submitted that claims 9 and 16 are allowable as depending upon allowable base claims. In addition, when read in their entireties, not all of the claim elements of claims 9 and 16 are taught

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or suggested in the cited references. For example, Cox discloses a connector pin that extends from the shaft of a spindle motor. The connector pin is inserted into the connector contact assembly that ultimately results in the pin coming into contact with the contact base. In the present invention, however, contact between a spindle motor and a PCBA is made proper when the PCBA is properly aligned using the claimed guide pin. The teachings of Cox fail to correct the deficiencies of Baxter et al. and Jabbardi et al. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

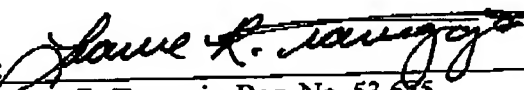
Although claims 22 and 23 are indicated as rejected in the Summary of the Office Action, the Examiner has not particularly described why these claims are rejected in the remaining portion of the Office Action. Therefore, Applicant has been unable to completely respond or present arguments for these claims. Clarification is respectfully requested.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, claims 1, 2, 4-14 and 16-25 are patentable over the cited references. Consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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